

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 05283 190522Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5566

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5283

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, CVIS, VS, CGEN

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES AND REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE
TO VIETNAMESE

1. POST RECEIVING GREAT VOLUME OF REQUESTS FROM MEMBERS
OF CONGRESS THAT EMBASSY ARRANGE FOR THEEVACUATION OF
CERTAIN VIETNAMESE CITIZENS, MOST RELATED TO AMERICAN
CITIZENS BUT MANY WHO BECAUSE OF IDENTIFICATION WITH U.S.
INTERESTS ARE BELIEVED TO BE IN JEOPARDY.

2. GVN REQUIRES ITS CITIZENS OBTAIN EXIT VISAS AND
PASSPORTS TO DEPART. THESE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO
OBTAIN, BUT WHILE THIS REQUIREMENT EXISTS, THERE NO
BASIS ON WHICH EMBASSY CAN REMOVE VIETNAMESE CITIZENS FROM
THIS COUNTRY. SHOULD GENERAL EVACUATION OCCUR, EMBASSY
INTENDS MAKE EVERY EFFORT HUMANLY POSSIBLE EVACUATE AS
MANY SUCH VIETNAMESE CITIZENS AS POSSIBLE, REGARDLESS OF
GVN DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS.

3. NEEDLESS TO SAY IF THIS WERE TO BECOME KNOWN PROSPECTS
FOR ANY SUCCESS WOULD BE MOST SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED. MOREOVER
WE ARE SIMPLY IN NO POSITION TO REPLY INDIVIDUALLY TO EACH
INQUIRY ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE INTENSE PRESSURE WE ARE UNDER
TO REDUCE ALREADY OVERWORKED STAFF. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES
BEST SOLUTION MIGHT BE FOR DEPARTMENT TO QUIETLY BRIEF MEMBERS
OF CONGRESS AND INFORM THEM THAT ALTHOUGH NO REPLIES WILL BE
SENT THEIR INQUIRES, ALL PERSONS IN WHOM THEY INTERESTED WILL
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 05283 190522Z

BE GIVEN CONSIDERATION SHOULD EVACUATION OCCUR.
MARTIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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